

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

DIVISION OF CODES AND STANDARDS

Uniform Construction Code

Automatic Rain Sensors for Lawn Irrigation Systems

Proposed Amendments: N.J.A.C. 5:23-3.4, 3.16

Authorized by: Susan Bass Levin, Commissioner, Department of Community Affairs

Authority: N.J.S.A. 52:27D-124

Proposal Number: PRN 2002-

Calendar Reference: See Summary below for explanation of exception to calendar requirement.

Submit written comments by November 3, 2002 to:

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**SUSAN BASS LEVIN
COMMISSIONER**

The agency proposal follows:

Summary

The Uniform Construction Code Act, N.J.S.A. 52:27D-119, was amended by P.L. 2000, c. 107 to require the installation of an automatic rain sensor device for a new lawn sprinkler system. The proposed amendment incorporates this statutory requirement into the rules and assigns inspection responsibility to the electrical subcode official. The electrical subcode official, rather than the plumbing subcode official, is being designated because an electrical permit will always be required for the installation of the pump that is part of a lawn sprinkler system. A plumbing permit, on the other hand, would be required only when a backflow preventer is also installed. A backflow preventer is necessary only when the lawn sprinkler system is attached to the potable water supply.

As the Department has provided a 60-day public comment period on this notice of proposal, this notice is excepted from the rulemaking calendar requirement pursuant to N.J.A.C. 1:30-3.3(a)5.

Social Impact

The proposed amendments would enhance the effective enforcement of the Uniform Construction Code Act by adding the Act's provision to the rules. Also, a social benefit is achieved by including water conservation regulations in the Code.

Economic Impact

The Department does not anticipate that the proposed amendments would have any positive or negative economic impact. This is an existing statutory requirement.

Federal Standards Statement

No Federal Standards analysis is required because the proposed amendments are not being proposed pursuant to Federal law or in order to implement, comply with, or participate in any program established under Federal law or under a State law that incorporates or refers to Federal law, standards, or requirements.

Jobs Impact

No jobs will be lost or created as a result of the proposed amendments.

Agriculture Industry Impact

The Department does not anticipate that the proposed amendments would have any impact on the agricultural industry. This rule amendment applies specifically to lawn sprinkler systems and not to agricultural watering systems.

Regulatory Flexibility Statement

The proposed amendment would not impose any record-keeping or reporting requirements on “small businesses,” as defined in the New Jersey Regulatory Flexibility Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-16 et seq.

Smart Growth Impact

Due to the subject matter of this proposal, the Department does not expect that it would have any impact upon either achievement of "smart growth" or implementation of the State Plan.

Full text of the proposal follows (additions indicated in boldface **thus**; deletions indicated in brackets [thus]):

5:23-3.4 Responsibilities

(a) - (b) (No change.)

(c) An individual acting as an electrical subcode official or electrical inspector shall have responsibility for enforcing the adopted subcodes as listed below:

1. (No change.)

2. Field inspection for the sections listed below shall be performed by an inspector possessing an electrical technical license.

ELECTRICAL SUBCODE

Article 90--Introduction

Chapter 1

Chapter 2 (except for section 250-50(c) Concrete-Encased

Electrode)

Chapters 3-5

Chapter 6 as follows:

600-610

620 (Note: The following sections are enforced by the electrical inspector when N.J.A.C. 5:23-12 devices are installed in any use group structures excluding installations in Use Group R-3, R-4, or R-2 where the elevator devices are located wholly within dwelling units and are not accessible to the general public.)

620-13 (on the line side of the machine room/machinery
space disconnect(s))

620-22 (on the line side of the machine room/machinery
space disconnect(s))

620-23

620-24

620-38 (for elect. equipment and materials only)

620-51 (except for (b), (c) and (d))

620-61(c) and 620-61(d) (on the line side of the machine

room/ machinery space disconnect(s))

620-85 (except for cartop receptacles)

620-91(b)

625-695

Chapters 7-9

N.J.A.C. 5:23-3.16(c) Automatic rain sensor device

ENERGY SUBCODE

(No change.)

(d) - (h) (No change.)

5:23-3.16 Electrical subcode

(a) - (b) (No change.)

(c) A newly installed automatic lawn sprinkler system, where such systems are not prohibited by local ordinance, shall be equipped with an automatic rain sensor device or switch that will override the irrigation cycle of the automatic lawn sprinkler system when rainfall of more than ½ inch has occurred.